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REMARKS

The subject application is a U.S. national phase application under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/016537.

Claims 1-27 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3-7 have been amended to remove multi-dependencies therein. Accordingly, claims 1-27 are presented for examination, with claims 1, 9, 10, 12 and 14-22 being in independent form.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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